

## GOVERNMENT CONTROL OF ALL RAILROADS IS PROCLAIMED

**President Wilson Last Night Issued Edict Calling for Possession and Operation of Roads, During War BECOMES EFFECTIVE AT NOON FRIDAY, DEC. 28**

**William G. McAdoo is Placed in Charge as Director General of Railroads, But Will Retain His Place in the Cabinet—Direct Management of the Roads Will Remain in the Hands of Railroad Officials and the Railroads War Board—The Chief Practical Effect Will be a Complete Unification of All Rail Systems—Proclamation Applies to All Electric Lines Engaged in General Transportation, With Interurban Systems Exempted—Government Backing Will be Given to New Issues of Railroad Securities.**

Washington, Dec. 26.—Government possession and operation of the nation's railroads for the period of the war was proclaimed by President Wilson tonight to become effective at noon next Friday, December 28.

William G. McAdoo, retaining his place in the cabinet as secretary of the treasury, is placed in charge as director general of railroads.

Every railroad engaged in general transportation with its appurtenances, including steamship lines, is taken over and all systems will be operated as one under the director-general.

In a statement accompanying his proclamation, the president announced that as soon as congress reassembles he will recommend legislation guaranteeing pre-war earnings and maintenance of railroad properties in good repair.

Government backing will be given to new issues of railroad securities that a ready market may be found.

**Came as a Surprise.**

The president's move, although foreseen by some, came as a great surprise to nearly everybody in Washington, including railroad officials. It had been generally believed he would have waited until the opening of congress before taking any step. He acted through Secretary of War Baker under authority conferred by the army appropriation act.

Direct management of the roads will remain in the hands of railroad officials and the railroads will continue to operate under their present management.

The chief practical effect of government operation will be to permit a complete unification of all rail systems.

### STEAMER TUSCARORA IS GIVEN UP FOR LOST

With Her Crew of 35 Men—Somewhere North of Cape Breton Island.

New York, Dec. 26.—The American steamship Tuscarora, formerly lake vessel and requisitioned by the United States shipping board for Atlantic service, together with her entire crew of 35 men, is believed to have been lost at sea somewhere north of Cape Breton Island, according to advices received in wireless circles today from Nova Scotia.

The advices were that parts of a bridge, pilot house and deck timbers from a large steamer were washed ashore on St. Paul Island, about 30 miles northeast from Cape Breton. Shipping men familiar with that coast are prevailing ideas there believe it is from the missing lake steamer.

The crew of the Tuscarora were recruited in New England ports. She was commanded by Captain Crowell, from Cape Cod.

The Tuscarora, before being requisitioned by the shipping board, was owned by the Lehigh Valley Transportation Co. and operated between lake ports.

### SECOND LIEUT. ROOSEVELT SLATED FOR PROMOTION

One of 47 Officers of the Expeditionary Forces Abroad.

Washington, Dec. 26.—Among forty-seven officers of the expeditionary forces recommended for promotion by General Pershing in a made public today by the war department is Second Lieutenant Archibald B. Roosevelt, son of Theodore Roosevelt, who is proposed for a captaincy of infantry.

Besides Lieutenant Roosevelt, one other second lieutenant of infantry, Mahlon O. Bradley, is proposed for a captaincy, and Captain Emmert W. Savage, infantry, is recommended for promotion to lieutenant colonel.

These three officers are the only ones in the combatant services recommended for advancement of more than one grade, but First Lieutenants H. E. Ross and A. W. Kenner of the medical corps, are proposed for the rank of major. With few exceptions the advancements are to the national army.

### MILITARY PROTECTION FOR ALL SHIPYARDS

Is Urged by Directors of the Merchants' Association.

New York, Dec. 26.—Immediate military protection for shipbuilding and repairing yards in New York harbor engaged in government work, was urged by directors of the Merchants' Association in letters sent to Edward N. Hurley, chairman of the United States shipping board; the secretary of war and the secretary of the navy, it was announced tonight. The step was taken after conferences between the advisory war shipping committee of the association and representatives of shipbuilding plants having federal contracts.

Lack of military protection, it was stated, endangers ships in course of construction and the plants themselves.

terms, impossible under private operation by reason of statutes prohibiting pooling of rail traffic and earnings. The roads themselves had gone as far as they dared in this direction, and it became known only today that they had been warned by Attorney General Gregory that a violation of anti-pooling laws could not be permitted.

This situation was fully realized by President Wilson, who in his statement declared the railroads had gone as far as they could and that already some systems were endangering their earnings in attempting unification.

### Interurban Lines Exempt.

Although the proclamation applies to all electric lines engaged in general transportation local interurban systems are specifically excepted.

Congress will be asked to guarantee earnings equivalent to the average net operating income of each railroad in the three-year period ending June 30, 1917. Railroad experts estimate that this will cost the government next year in the neighborhood of \$100,000,000 which can be raised in large part by increased freights if the Interstate Commerce Commission grants the roads application for rate increases now pending. Otherwise, it will be paid largely out of the general government funds.

The Interstate Commerce Commission and other government agencies which have to do with the railroads, will continue to perform their functions as heretofore, except that they will be subject to orders of the director of railroads.

The president makes it clear that his decision was not made because of any failure on the part of any railroads to perform their whole duty in.

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### PERSHING APPROVES WORK OF KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Plans Are Being Made to Extend Their Field Service.

An Atlantic Port, Dec. 26.—Field service work of the Knights of Columbus among the American troops in France has received the hearty approval of General Pershing, and plans are being made to extend the work now under way on a much wider scope. Walter N. Kernan, of Utica, N. Y., over-seer of the work of the American organization, said today on his arrival here today on a French steamer.

Mr. Kernan, who had been in France since November, to make a report for his organization, said that General Pershing told him he was glad to give every support to the work, not alone for the benefits it will be to the men of his command, but also to demonstrate to the Germans that America's part in the war has the hearty support of the Catholics.

### GEN. BLISS TO REMAIN IN ACTIVE SERVICE

After He Reaches the Retirement Age Next Monday.

Washington, Dec. 26.—General Tasker H. Bliss will be retained on active service as chief of staff of the army until he reaches the retirement age next Monday, December 31.

Secretary Baker announced late today that this had been decided upon by President Wilson. It had been believed generally General Bliss would continue in active service, but that some younger officer would assume the burdens of the chief of staff.

### AUSTRALIAN SOLDIERS AGAINST CONSCRIPTION

Vote of These Abroad Indicates a Majority of 180,000 Against.

Vancouver, B. C., Dec. 26.—First returns from the Australian soldier vote abroad show a substantial majority against conscription, contrary to all predictions, says a despatch received here today from Sydney, N. S. W., by the Vancouver World.

The latest count of the total ballot, the despatch says, indicates a majority of 180,000 against the measure.

### ADVANCE IN RATES ON CANADIAN RAILWAYS

Has Been Granted by the Canadian Railway Board.

Ottawa, Dec. 26.—The railway board has granted the applications of the Canadian Railways for a general advance in freight and passenger rates. These increases are roughly for freight ten per cent in the west and 15 per cent in the east. On coal an increase of 15 cents a ton is allowed.

Chief of Yakima Indians Dead.

North Yakima, Wash., Dec. 25.—Saluskin, chief of the Yakima Indians, died last night. He is the last of the line of Owl chiefs and since the tribal relations of the Yakima Indians have been broken, he is the last of his line. He was about 90 years old.

### Cabled Paragraphs

**Charles S. Smith Released.**

Petrograd, Dec. 26.—Charles S. Smith of St. Louis, a member of the American railway mission in Russia, who was arrested recently at Tschita, Siberia, was released after a few hours of detention, according to advices reaching the American embassy here.

**Losses to Italian Shipping.**

Rome, Dec. 26.—The losses to Italian shipping during the past week from submarines were three steamers of more than 1500 tons, two sailing vessels of more than 100 tons and one sailing vessel of less than 100 tons. Two steamers were damaged by torpedoes and were run ashore, while one sailing vessel was damaged but was towed into port.

### EIGHT MEXICAN BANDITS KILLED AT CANDELAIRA, TEX.

By U. S. Cavalrymen and Ranchers—Story of the Raid.

Marfa, Texas, Dec. 26.—Eight bandits were killed yesterday when American and Mexican cavalrymen fired on a band of Mexican raiders after the bandits had killed Michael Welch, driver of a United States mail stage, and two Mexican passengers, and had looted the L. C. Britte store at Candalaria, Texas. This was the official report received here today.

It is reported that Mexican bandits raided also the Fitzgerald ranch between here and the river. Late last night, driving off all the horses from the ranch, and taking a large quantity of provisions. These raiders were believed to have been a part of the band which raided Candalaria yesterday.

It now is believed the bandits were a part of Francisco Villa's force which has been operating in the Ojinaga district.

Ranchers who arrived tonight from Candalaria brought the first connected story of the raid.

Only two men were at the Britte ranch house Christmas morning when the raiders arrived. They were T. T. Neill, manager of the ranch, and his son, Sam. Their wives and children were also at the ranch house. The father saw the men approaching and awakened his son. The women and children were put in the most protected room and two lone men opened fire upon the bandits riding wildly toward the house. A desperate rifle battle was then fought between Sam Neill and the leader of the Mexicans at 100 yards range.

At this time the man while his father fought off the Mexicans who were attempting to gain entrance through a rear door. Two more bandits were killed whereupon the remainder fled. They hardly escaped but for the ranch house, where the minister seized a rifle and guarded a window with other Americans.

At this time the United States mail stage from Valentine drove up to the Britte store carrying Christmas packages for the United States soldiers stationed at Candalaria. The two Mexican passengers were killed before they could get out of the stage. Michael Welch, team driver, was killed, and his son was taken to the place of his execution.

### DECREASES IN LOSS OF BRITISH SHIPPING

Eleven Merchantmen of Over 1600 Tons Were Lost Last Week.

London, Dec. 26.—The losses to British shipping show a material decrease for the past week, according to the admiralty report tonight, eleven British merchantmen of 1600 tons or over were sunk during this period by mine or submarine, as against twenty-two in the previous week. The summary:

Arrivals 2,216; sailings 2,640.

British merchantmen sunk by mine or submarine, 1600 tons, or over, eleven; under 1600 tons, one; fishing vessels, one.

For the week ended December 19, seventeen merchantmen were sunk, fourteen of them of more than 1600 tons. In the previous week the losses were twenty-one, fourteen of them of more than 1600 tons.

### NATIONAL COAL SHORTAGE IS AN "ACTUAL FACT"

Due to Wiping Out of Reserve Supply and Increased Consumption.

New York, Dec. 26.—national coal shortage, due to the wiping out of the reserve supply and the increased consumption, is an "actual fact," and must be faced by the small consumer with the practice of the "toughest conservation," according to a report of the New York state fuel conservation committee filed today with Albert H. Wiggin, state fuel administrator.

### AUTO TRUCK STRUCK BY TRAIN AT GROSVENORDALE

The Driver, William Inman of Webster, Died on His Way to Hospital.

Grosvenordale, Conn., Dec. 26.—As a result of a New York New Haven & Hartford train at 4.30 this afternoon striking an auto truck, William Inman of Webster, driver, died on his way to a Worcester hospital and Joseph Langlier of Wilsonville, Conn., sustained a broken right leg and other injuries.

## U.S. to be Patient With Russia

IN DEALING WITH THE CHAOTIC SITUATION THERE

### TO AVOID INTERFERENCE

There is a Deep Conviction in Administration Circles That Government of Democratic Form Will Develop.

Washington, Dec. 26.—Great forbearance and patience will be exercised by the American government in dealing with the chaotic Russian situation because it is realized that German intrigues, working through thinly disguised agents within the ranks of the Bolsheviks, is doing its utmost to bring about a breach between the United States and Russia.

It was authoritatively stated today that American representatives in Russia, diplomatic, economic and others, will be guided by the strictest rules of neutrality as between the Russian factions. It is the purpose to permit the Russian people themselves to work out their own salvation free from any American interference.

### Hope For Democratic Government.

There still is a deep seated conviction in administration circles that within a reasonable period of time a satisfactory and probably permanent government of democratic form will be developed from the present turmoil.

Despatches to the state department show that every opportunity is being seized upon by the German agencies to misrepresent the attitude of America towards the Bolshevik movement, and particularly to inflame the exorbitant Russian public against the personnel of the American embassy and its head, Ambassador Francis.

It was requested that the failure of the ambassador to extend official recognition to the Lenin regime as it did to the first republican government under Lvov and Mikuloff and now the tension has become acute over the routine efforts of Ambassador Francis to assist the Red Cross in its work in Russia and also to reach a settlement with the Russians for an exchange of civilian and incapacitated war prisoners.

### KAISER HAD NARROW ESCAPE CHRISTMAS EVE

During a Reprisal Raid by a British Air Squadron.

Geneva, Dec. 26.—The German emperor, returning with his staff from Verdun front, had a narrow escape during the reprisal raid of a British air squadron on Christmas eve, according to a despatch from Basel. Only about an hour earlier the emperor's special train left the station for the winter quarters at Bad Nauheim. A section of the train was torn up, cutting communication north.

In fact the emperor's train was the last to leave Mannheim and no trains arrived at Basel yesterday from that city. Two bombs fell on the palace, and the emperor's train was killed here, however, as the emperor was having a holiday. A considerable number of persons were killed or injured within the town and several were blown into the Rhine.

### MINNEAPOLIS MILLS ARE GRINDING "WAR FLOUR"

It is Designed to Save 16,000,000 Bushels of Wheat in the Present Crop Year.

Minneapolis, Minn., Dec. 26.—Local mills today began grinding "war flour" which will be grinded for four months designed to save 16,000,000 bushels of wheat in the present crop year. Under these regulations, which provide for the use of 74 per cent of the wheat berry instead of only fifty per cent, two grades of flour will be eliminated and the output will be listed as war flour of first and second grades.

The change resulted in a sharp reduction in bran prices and a drop in the prices of other by-products also is expected.

Several milling companies were compelled to suspend operations temporarily because of lack of proper equipment for grinding the new flour. Members of the food administration milling division said that because of the large supply of flour now on the market, it would be some time before war flour reached the consumer.

### FLOUR PRICES ARE INCREASED AT BALTIMORE

Due to Lowering the Price of Mill Feed to the Millers.

Baltimore, Md., Dec. 26.—Flour prices were advanced today from 20 to 25 cents a barrel, according to grade.

This increase in price was announced by one of the leading millers in this section, who says its action will be followed by all millers, as the rise is wholly due to the action of the food administration in lowering the price of mill feed to the millers.

Blended patent flour, the top grade, was advanced ten cents a barrel, and the use of the new war flour, according to spring patents had the extreme advance of thirty-five cents a barrel. The price of the lowest grade of flour was advanced by the millers a few weeks ago.

### NEW RUSSIAN GOVERNMENT ESTABLISHED AT VORONEGE

Russian Consul at Seattle Received Cable by Way of India.

Seattle, Wash., Dec. 26.—Nicholas Bogolavskii, Russian consul at Seattle, announced tonight that he had received a cable from the Russian government at Voronege, a Russian government at Voronege, the capital of a province of the same name between Moscow and Rostov, on the Azov Sea.

The cable did not say who led in the formation of the government, the consul asserted. He said he believed the leaders in the government were members of the Karsensky provisional government who had fled from Petrograd.

## Italians Continue Counter Attacks

GAINED GROUND, BUT WERE UNABLE TO HOLD IT

### CESSATION IN BATTLES

In Peace Parleys the Teutons Have Failed to Return and Answer the Demands Made by the Bolsheviks.

Except on the northern Italian front military operations continue for below normal. In France, where snow has fallen along the entire front, only bombardments and small raiding operations are taking place.

### Counter-Attacks by Italians.

West of the Brenta river in the Italian highlands the Italians on Christmas day continued their counter-attacks upon the Austro-German forces which previously had succeeded in making gains on Col. Del Rosso and Monte De Val Bella. The battle waged throughout the morning with great violence and the Italians wrested several of their former positions from the enemy, but owing to renewed onslaughts by the Teutonic allied forces they were again compelled to give ground.

### Peace Parleys Broken Down.

The situation surrounding the peace parleys between the Austro-Germans and the Russians is still befuddled owing to lack of details being permitted to come through, but at last accounts the Germans had failed to return and answer to the demands made by the Bolshevik delegates. On the contrary they had requested that the parleys be extended for virtually another month. Meantime a German commission has started for Petrograd from Berlin in an endeavor to restore relations between Germany and Russia and also to reach a settlement with the Russians for an exchange of civilian and incapacitated war prisoners.

### SHIPBUILDING DELAYED BY LABOR TROUBLES

Strikes and Other Disputes Caused a Loss of 536,992 Working Days.

Washington, Dec. 26.—Labor troubles were blamed for much of the delay in the government's shipbuilding program by Raymond B. Stevens, vice chairman of the shipping board, testifying today in the senate commerce committee on the report of the board.

Since the United States went to war, Mr. Stevens said, shipyards have lost a total of 536,992 working days by strikes and other disputes. This he represents the work of 20,000 men for a month. Happily, said Mr. Stevens, the situation is improving by the time the war is over.

Senators took a lively interest in the state of the labor situation and the inquiry turned to the whole subject and its position during the war. Questions as to the wisdom of conscription in the shipyards and other government work drew from Mr. Stevens' emphatic opposition to any attempt to force civilians to work under such conditions and government fixed wages.

### \$30,000 FIRE IN FURNITURE WAREHOUSE AT WATERBURY

Three Horses in an Adjoining Stable Were Suffocated.

Waterbury, Conn., Dec. 26.—Fire late this afternoon gutted the lower floor of the Boston Furniture Company's warehouse on Scovill street, causing a damage roughly estimated at \$30,000. Three valuable draft horses in an adjoining stable were suffocated and three others were rescued but two suffered so severely from the effects of the smoke that they may die. The origin of the fire is a mystery and will be the subject of an investigation by the fire marshal tomorrow. The warehouse was in charge of two men, one of whom was Gus Pfeiffer. The other was only known by his first name, who was sweeping up potatoes and spreading to the large four-story brick and iron store of the company, which is only separated from the burned building by a three story wooden building.

### ARRESTED FOR BOASTING HE WAS A GERMAN SPY

Andrew Swornik of Rhineland, Wis., Has Been Interned.

Madison, Wis., Dec. 26.—Repeated assertions of Andrew Swornik, Rhineland, Wis., that he was a German spy fell upon unheeding ears until a federal officer from Madison dropped in on him, heard his boasts and arrested him. Today an order for his internment arrived from Washington.

### VICE ADMIRAL WEMYSS SUCCEEDS ADMIRAL JELICOE

The Latter Has Been Elevated to the Peerage For Good Work.

London, Dec. 26.—Vice Admiral Sir Rosslyn Wemyss has been appointed first sea lord in succession to Admiral Sir John Jellicoe, according to an official announcement issued this evening.

Admiral Jellicoe has been elevated to the peerage in recognition of his very distinguished services. The hope is expressed that his experience may be utilized later in another important post.

### 200 TOTALLY BLINDED BY HALIFAX EXPLOSION

The Majority of Them Are Young Women and Children.

Halifax, N. S., Dec. 26.—The estimate that five hundred men, women and children had become totally or partially blind as a result of the recent explosion and fire, is proving correct. At least two hundred will be totally blind and the majority of them are young women and children.

## Condensed Telegrams

The loss of property at Halifax is estimated at \$50,000,000.

Boston ranks first in the eastern division for enlistments.

Greece wants her citizens in the United States to enlist in the American army.

The Christmas mail that passed through the Boston central postoffice was 4,000 tons.

A British transport loaded with wounded Canadian soldiers arrived at an Atlantic port.

The names of one American killed and one wounded appeared on the Canadian casualty list.

Washington hotel proprietors advised guests that all lights must be turned out at midnight.

Four hundred enlisted men at Camp Wheeler, Ga., left the camp for the holidays without permission.

Forty prisoners of the New Jersey reformatory were released to go to their homes over the holidays.

Major Arthur Brice de Saulles, the father of Jack Linger de Saulles, died from grief over the death of his son.

The trustees of the First Baptist church of Mount Vernon, N. Y., started a coal conservation movement.

All private homes heated by hot water, steam or vapor plants, in Washington, will be restricted to soft coal.

Secretaries Baker and Daniels sent Christmas greetings to the fighting forces on land and sea and to their families.

Two commissioned officers and two sergeants of the American forces in France were injured in an automobile accident.

The work that women may do during the war was outlined by officials of the New England section of the Committee on Labor.

One man was killed and nine others were seriously injured in a wreck between two electric cars five miles east of Canton, O.

A memorial mass was celebrated in San Marco church, Venice, in commemoration of the delivery of Jerusalem from the Turks.

Arthur M. Harris, Vice President of the firm of Harris, Forbes & Co., bankers will leave for France soon as Y. M. C. A. secretary.

A price to be paid by the government for silk in agreement with western producers has been agreed upon and will be announced soon.

Vilhjalmur Stefansson, the Arctic explorer, last heard from in a letter dated in March 1916, has arrived with his party at Port Yukon.

The supreme court of New Hampshire refused a new trial to Frederick L. Sargent, awaiting execution on January 15 for the murder of his wife.

The London War Office announced that 7,000 Canadian troops had been granted war crosses for bravery. Nineteen men were granted the Victoria Cross.

Rev. Michael O'Kane, S. J., former president of Holy Cross College and since 1911, abbot of the Church of the Immaculate Conception, died in Worcester, Mass.

Orders were issued that no new war contracts shall be placed in Buffalo before the war industries board certifies there is power sufficient for the manufacture.

A lifeboat from the American steamer Tuscarora, believed to have been lost, was sighted by a light keeper on St. Paul's Island, Nova Scotia.

The "American Poets' Ambulance in Italy" announced that it had successfully accomplished its purpose and said that the accounts would be audited in January.

The Interstate Commerce Commission ordered reductions ranging from two to four per cent in class and commodity rates from the east to Michigan points.

The New York Board of Education will consider the recommendation that Miss Fanny Ross, a school teacher, be suspended for six months for spoken opposition to the draft.

Robert U. Grannis, formerly vice president of the Mutual Life Insurance Company and secretary of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, died at Morristown, N. J.

General Pershing reported that Private Andrew Aubuchon, engineers, was accidentally killed in France December 22. Aubuchon's mother, Mrs. Theodore Aubuchon, lives at Bonne Terre, Mo.

A crowded trolley car jumped the track near Spencer Center, Mass., Monday night, skidded across the street and rolled over on its side against a bank seriously injuring nine people and slightly injuring seven.

The first production of "Asara," an American opera by Henry Hadley, set by David Stevens, was given at Chicago last night by the Chicago Grand Opera company, the composer conducting. The cast was entirely American.

The American expeditionary force in France wishes to discourage the budding practice of American conscription by "adopting" individual soldiers in France for the period of the war. The practice threatens to choke the congested mail service.

A letter declaring nine bombs had been placed in the executive mansion, capitol building, police station and residences of "two head officers of the state" in Sacramento, has been received by the governor of California. The writer demanded \$50,000.

President Sanfuentes of Chile denied that there was any foundation for the statement that General Pershing was "adopting" individual soldiers in his despatches to Berlin that Chile was to be drawn into an alliance with Argentina and Bolivia for the purpose of forming a South American political bloc opposed to the war policy of the United States.

## U.S. Men in France Lack Equipment

ENOUGH FOR TRAINING, THOUGH NOT FOR FIGHTING

### MAJ.-GEN. O'RYAN SAYS

Told Senate Military Committee That the Need of the War is Artillery and Clothing of Heavier Quality.

Washington, Dec. 26.—First hand information about the equipment and training of American fighting men in France and in training camps was given the senate military committee by Major General John D. O'Ryan, commanding the New York national guard division at Camp Wadsworth, Spartanburg, S. C., recently returned from an observation tour abroad.

### Immediate Steps Without Red Tape.

Before the general took the stand the committee on resuming its investigation of war preparations after a short Christmas recess, was questioned by parliament a resolution urging that immediate steps be taken without resort to departmental routine to supply deficiencies of winter clothing to men in the camps. The action was based upon late reports reaching the committee as well as upon evidence heard last week.

### General O'Ryan's Testimony.

Most of General O'Ryan's testimony, particularly that referring to conditions at the front, was heard in executive session. He was questioned for three hours with the doors closed, but the public was given an opportunity to hear him for an hour during which he discussed chiefly the situation at home. General O'Ryan said his men were adequately equipped for training, though not for fighting, and that he would like to see them have two more months before they went to the front. He told the committee that the great need of the war was artillery and recommended that the troops abroad be supplied with winter clothing of heavier quality.

Major Generals William Wright and Edwin St. John Gresham, commanders at Camp Doniphan, Oklahoma, and Bowie, Texas, respectively, who also have been abroad will testify tomorrow if they reach Washington in time. Otherwise the